

**BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY AT
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

FEBRUARY 22, 2000

IN RE:)	
)	
APPLICATION OF CAPROCK)	DOCKET NO. 99-00852
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION)	
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC)	
CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY AS A)	
COMPETING TELECOMMUNICATIONS)	
SERVICE PROVIDER)	

**ORDER GRANTING CERTIFICATE OF
PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY**

On January 26, 2000, this matter came before the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("Authority"), upon the Application of CapRock Telecommunications Corp. ("CapRock") for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity as a Competing Telecommunications Service Provider to offer a full array of telecommunications services within the State of Tennessee (the "Application"). The Application was made pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-201 *et seq.*

LEGAL STANDARD FOR GRANTING CCN

CapRock's Application was considered in light of the criteria for granting a certificate of public convenience and necessity ("CCN") as set forth in applicable statutes. Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-201 provides, in part:

(a) No public utility shall establish or begin the construction of, or operate any line, plant, or system, or route in or into a municipality or other territory already receiving a like service from another public utility, or establish service therein, without first having obtained from the authority, after written application and hearing, a certificate that the present or future public convenience and necessity require or will require such construction, establishment, and operation,

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and no person or corporation not at the time a public utility shall commence the construction of any plant, line, system or route to be operated as a public utility, or the operation of which would constitute the same, or the owner or operator thereof, a public utility as defined by law, without having first obtained, in like manner, a similar certificate . . .

* * *

(c) After notice to the incumbent local exchange telephone company and other interested parties and following a hearing, the authority shall grant a certificate of convenience and necessity to a competing telecommunications service provider if after examining the evidence presented, the authority finds:

(1) The applicant has demonstrated that it will adhere to all applicable commission policies, rules and orders; and

(2) The applicant possesses sufficient managerial, financial, and technical abilities to provide the applied for services.

An authority order, including appropriate findings of fact and conclusions of law, denying or approving, with or without modification, an application for certification of a competing telecommunications service provider shall be entered no more than sixty (60) days from the filing of the application.

(d) Subsection (c) is not applicable to areas served by an incumbent local exchange telephone company with fewer than 100,000 total access lines in this state unless such company voluntarily enters into an interconnection agreement with a competing telecommunications service provider or unless such incumbent local exchange telephone company applies for a certificate to provide telecommunications services in an area outside its service area existing on June 6, 1995.

In addition, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-5-212, competing telecommunications providers are required to file with the Authority (1) a plan containing the provider's plan for purchasing goods and services from small and minority-owned telecommunications businesses; and (2) information on programs that might provide technical assistance to such businesses.

INTERVENORS

Public notice of the hearing in this matter was made by the Authority's Executive Secretary, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-204. No interested persons sought intervention prior to hearing.

CAPROCK'S HEARING

CapRock's Application was uncontested. At the hearing held on January 26, 2000, CapRock was represented by Mr. Henry Walker and Ms. April Ingram of Boulton, Cummings, Connors & Berry, PLC, 414 Union Street, Suite 1600, Post Office Box 198062, Nashville, Tennessee 37219. In addition, Mr. Michael Donohoe, CapRock's Legal Counsel, presented testimony and was subject to examination by the Authority's Directors. Upon CapRock's conclusion of the proof in its case, the Authority granted CapRock's Application based upon the following findings of fact and conclusions of law:

I. APPLICANT'S QUALIFICATIONS

1. CapRock is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Texas on January 30, 1991 and received its Certificate of Authority to transact business in the State of Tennessee on September 24, 1999.

2. The complete street address of CapRock's principal place of business is 15601 N. Dallas Parkway, Suite 700, Addison, Texas 75001. The phone number is (972) 788-4800 and fax number is (972) 788-4243. CapRock's outside counsel are Henry Walker, Esq. and April A. Ingram, Esq., 414 Union Street, Post Office Box 198062, Nashville, TN 37219.

3. The Application and supporting documentary information existing in the record indicate that CapRock has the requisite technical and managerial qualifications necessary to provide telecommunications services within the State of Tennessee on a facilities-based and resale basis. Specifically, CapRock's management and technical teams have extensive expertise in the telecommunications industry. CapRock is currently authorized to provide telecommunications services on a facilities-based and/or resale basis in 35 states.

4. CapRock has the necessary capital and financial capability to provide the services it proposes to offer.

5. CapRock has represented that it will adhere to all applicable policies, rules and orders of the Authority.

II. PROPOSED SERVICES

1. CapRock intends to offer a full array of telecommunications services throughout the State of Tennessee on a facilities-based and resale basis. Specifically, CapRock intends to offer a broad range of interexchange services, switched and special access services, and local exchange services. CapRock will offer these services through the use of its own facilities, as well as resold services. CapRock's target market for its facilities-based services will be business and residential customers.

2. Except as may be authorized by law, CapRock does not intend to serve any areas currently being served by an incumbent local telephone company with fewer than 100,000 total access lines where local exchange competition is prohibited pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-201(d).

III. PERMITTING COMPETITION TO SERVE THE PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY

Upon a review of the Application and the record in this matter, the Authority finds that approval of CapRock's application would inure to the benefit of the present and future public convenience by permitting competition in the telecommunications services markets in the State and by fostering the development of an efficient technologically advanced statewide system of telecommunications services.

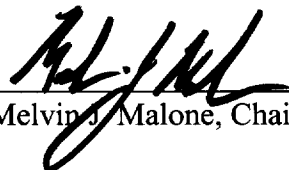
IV. SMALL AND MINORITY-OWNED TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUSINESS PARTICIPATION PLAN & BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

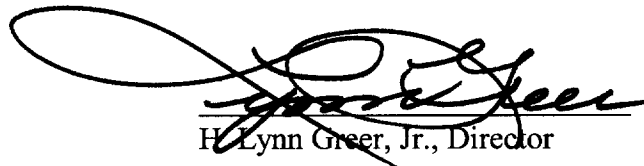
1. Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-5-212 and the Authority's Rules, CapRock has filed a satisfactory small and minority-owned telecommunications business participation plan.

2. CapRock has acknowledged its obligation to contribute to the funding of the small and minority-owned telecommunications business assistance program, as set forth in Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-5-213.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. CapRock's Application as applied for is approved;
2. Any party aggrieved by the Authority's decision in this matter may file a Petition for Reconsideration with the Authority within ten (10) days from and after the date of this Order; and
3. Any party aggrieved with the Authority's decision in this matter has the right of judicial review by filing a Petition for Review in the Tennessee Court of Appeals, Middle Section, within sixty (60) days from and after the date of this Order.


Melvin J. Malone, Chairman


H. Lynn Greer, Jr., Director


Sara Kyle, Director

ATTEST:


K. David Waddell, Executive Secretary